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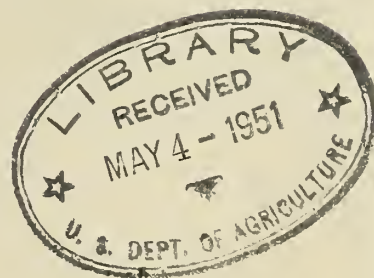
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HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK, 1926

Grace E. Frysinger

Field Agent, Central States



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

EXTENSION SERVICE.....C. W. Warburton, Director
Office of Cooperative Extension Work..... C. B. Smith, Chief

June, 1927

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 INTRODUCTION

The farm woman is rapidly taking a place of leadership in all endeavors directed toward rural well-being.

Home demonstration work is aiding her in this regard and 1926 reports indicate that through home demonstration work farm women have successfully undertaken activities which have resulted in greater comfort and beauty within the farm home, attractive surroundings for it, more efficiency in carrying on essential home tasks, constructive use of leisure

hours, increased income for family needs, satisfying community activities, projects promoting health, vocational ability and happiness for farm boys and girls, and the development of able leadership among farm women in all phases of rural affairs.

During the year 469,465 farm women acted as demonstrators of desirable farm home practices, and 126,709 farm women gave volunteer service to the development and growth of home demonstration work.

Projects of economic and physical value continued to meet with appreciative response in all States but farm women gave further indication of their interest in developing a broadened program designed to promote enlarged mental horizon, constructive citizenship, social satisfaction, and community pride. During the year under the leadership of home demonstration agents 188,595 farm girls conducted demonstrations in some phase of farm homemaking activity. Under the direction of home demonstration agents 12,465 farm boys also conducted demonstrations.

GROWTH IN WORK AND FINANCES

During 1926 home demonstration work was conducted in 1842 counties of the United States. State leaders report a total of seventy-one counties making new or increased appropriations for home demonstration work. Of this number sixteen counties reappropriated for home demonstration work after having discontinued the work for one or more years. Thirty-four counties increased the appropriation for home demonstration work already under way, two counties appropriated for assistant home demonstration agents. Twenty-

nine counties were reported as on a waiting list having appropriated money for home demonstration agents and awaiting cooperating funds from State and federal sources.

In fifty additional counties well defined interest in obtaining home demonstration agents was expressed, but definite action had not yet been taken due to various causes. Kentucky reports that during 1926 several counties made three-year appropriations for home demonstration work. The State agent from Georgia reports, "In the sixty-three counties with home demonstration agents renewal appropriations were promptly granted." The State agent from Tennessee reports, "In practically every county there was more support of appropriations for home demonstration work than ever before." Maryland reports, "County Commissioners have responded favorably to requests made for the support of home demonstration work." Illinois reports, "One of the encouraging features of the financial program this year was the greater knowledge and interest which the women have of this phase of the work. Each county has a finance committee." New York reports that in the majority of counties the local women have assumed entire responsibility for the detailed county budget for home demonstration work. Vermont reports, "The women have given more thought to and have assumed more responsibility for county funds for home demonstration work." During the year eight counties withdrew appropriations.

During 1926 twenty-seven States increased the budget of State and federal funds for home demonstration work to the extent of \$127,673.31. During the year twenty-one States increased county appropriations to the ex-

tent of \$89,653.51.

Erie County, New York, appropriated \$7,500 for home demonstration work. The county appropriations for home demonstration work in New York state totalled \$152,367. Texas counties appropriated \$110,432; Massachusetts, \$78,823; Mississippi, \$77,540; North Carolina, \$77,025; and Arkansas, \$73,605. In twenty-one States there was \$55,361.34 less of federal and State funds allotted to home demonstration work. In sixteen States there was \$39,368.06 less allotted from county appropriations for this work.

The total for home demonstration work from all sources for 1926 was \$3,142,681.27 which was an increase of \$143,918.32 over the year 1925. Nineteen per cent of the total amount expended for all extension work in agriculture and home economics was expended for combined home demonstration work and home economics specialist work during 1926.

Practically all States report that during 1926 the press gave additional quantity and quality of service, and that public and private, and civic, educational and commercial agencies gave practical assistance in the development of home demonstration work.

OUTSTANDING ACTIVITIES OF FARM WOMEN

Outstanding activities of farm women in home demonstration work during the year include:

(1) Farm women in larger numbers than ever before recognized the value of an educational program directed toward better home and community life.

(2) Increased demands from farm women for additional county home demonstration agents and for assistance from the State home demonstration

staff to give technical instruction and to aid them in organizing groups of women to receive such instruction.

(3) More farm women assumed responsibility in organizing farm women into groups to receive instruction and in assisting the extension staff to plan programs based on local needs, desires and abilities. They acted as demonstrators of desirable practices, and as local leaders to carry the program to a maximum of farm women. They disseminated to the public information regarding results achieved, and obtained appropriations for home demonstration work.

(4) Farm women broadened the program to include recreation, art and music appreciation, training for parenthood, parliamentary law, activities of a civic nature contributing to community betterment such as beautification of highways, clean-up campaigns, playground equipment, community recreation days, pageantry, community singing, improved exhibits at community, county and state fairs, community scoring, study of the responsibilities of citizenship and the like.

(5) In thirty-one States farm women attended one to five day camps especially arranged for them. Seven state agents commented upon the satisfaction expressed by farm women as to the women's part of short courses and farm and home week programs. Four states mentioned other special occasions arranged at the college for farm women. In addition to these formal and somewhat extended meetings many thousands of farm women attended rally days, tours and other one day meetings of similar nature. Farm women attended these meetings as a means of combining educational service, recreation and social contact.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF HOME DEMONSTRATION STAFF

Outstanding achievements among members of the extension staff, during the year, include:

(1) Increased effort to determine basic needs of farm women and to select simple units of subject matter instruction to meet their practical daily needs, as well as outlining effective demonstrations which could be carried on by the women in their homes.

(2) Concentrated study of the possibilities and limitations of local leadership; more care and discrimination in selection and training of, as well as supplementary assistance to local leaders.

(3) More effective administrative training of those women who were county and community officers, and training in news writing for those responsible for such activity.

(4) Continued endeavor to concentrate major interest within a community on a few projects so that volume of results achieved would be more satisfying to all concerned.

(5) Effort to make the regular meetings of local groups socially satisfying as well as educationally helpful. The introduction of short time periods for games, relaxing exercises, singing and entertaining stunts served to add enjoyment to the day's work, and were of value later on in community meetings.

(6) Twenty-nine States report special stress in the field of publicity. "Publicity with a purpose," has been the slogan of items and articles released throughout the year. This has resulted in more women participating in the program, many improved practices, and more intelligent understanding by the public regarding the aims and results of home demonstration work.

(7) More effective administrative supervision has also been a development of the year and more definite plans of work for all members of home demonstration state and county staffs were reported.

(8) Directors of extension and county agricultural agents indicated further realization of the importance of stimulating interest in home demonstration work in counties without home demonstration agents and gave aid in this regard.

PERSONNEL

During the year home demonstration work was conducted in 1842 counties throughout the forty-eight states. One thousand, one hundred and thirteen home demonstration agents, 46 home demonstration supervisors, 83 assistant home demonstration supervisors, and 160 home economics specialists aided in this service. Nine hundred and forty-five white home demonstration agents conducted home demonstration work on a one county basis. Sixty white home demonstration agents carried on home demonstration work on a two or more county basis. There were 108 Negro home demonstration agents. In 777 counties home demonstration work was carried on by home economics specialists and 27,171 farm women who acted as local leaders. They were assisted by the county agricultural agents in the counties concerned. In 88 counties home demonstration agents carried on extension work as the only extension representative in the county.

During the year 16 home economics specialists were added to the force. Two counties appropriated for assistant home demonstration agents, making a total of 20 assistant home demonstration agents. Eighteen home economics specialists were lost during the year and fourteen counties dis-

continued the appropriation for home demonstration work.

Although district home demonstration work is carried on in several States as a temporary means of meeting the urgent requests of farm women for assistance, leaders of home demonstration work report dissatisfaction with the plan. Idaho reports, "The most difficult part of home demonstration work through the district home demonstration agent plan is the vastness of territory and the impossibility of follow-up work being done successfully."

Practically every State reports special effort to make well defined supervisory plans to serve the specific needs of home demonstration agents. North Carolina reports that all members of the home demonstration staff made plans of work for the year and that these were carried out 99 per cent.

In some States year round committees, in other states at least one conference of specialists and home demonstration agents was held for joint discussion of proposed project work and a sound basic program of subject matter instruction and methods of teaching was formed to be modified from county to county to meet local needs. In many states definitely scheduled district meetings of home demonstration agents and specialists were held throughout the year.

Although limitation of funds was an enormous handicap, insistent demand by farm women for home demonstration service was met by state and county home demonstration staffs in a most creditable manner.

The leadership of State and county staffs was evidenced on every hand by the endorsement of farm women, by the quality of results obtained, by the uniform high percentage of attendance at all meetings, by completion

of demonstrations undertaken and by the willingness of farm women to participate in the responsible development of this work. In addition, civic, commercial and educational agencies recognized the position of leadership of home demonstration agents and specialists in matters having to do with constructive endeavors of farm women and enlisted their advice and aid in the field of rural endeavor.

State leaders report higher standards of scholastic training and effective experience were required for new home demonstration agents. Mississippi reports, "It is our policy to employ as home demonstration agents only college graduates who have had not less than two years' training in home economics, a working knowledge of agricultural subjects and who have had experience in rural work of some nature." During 1926 home demonstration agents received more helpful training preliminary to assuming responsibility with the county, more actual field experience through assisting home demonstration agents already established, and more administrative guidance during the early period of their county activities.

Short tenure of office is still a problem in home demonstration work but there is increasing tendency toward longer periods of service. Arkansas reports two home demonstration agents completing their thirteenth year, five others from six to ten years in the service, one specialist who began as a home demonstration agent nine years ago, and a district agent who began as a home demonstration agent eight years ago. Alabama and Oklahoma report equally sustained records.

Typical of the extent of turnover and the reasons therefore is the following quotation from North Carolina which state supports 52 home demon-

stration agents; "Twelve agents left the service in 1926. Five obtained leave of absence to take more college work; three to be married; two left on account of bad health; one to enter business and one for family reasons. Nine agents were transferred from one county to another which in almost every case was a promotion."

During the past year much of the turnover has been due to leave of absence for advanced study. State and county workers realize that special knowledge of subject matter, methods in teaching, sociology and economics as applied to the rural home are needed, if home demonstration work is to make a maximum contribution.

NATURE OF PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

During 1926 the home demonstration staff was faced with many serious problems outstanding among which are the following:

I Funds

(1) Insufficient State and federal funds to further develop the service from the state office.

In many States all State and federal funds are already assigned to the maximum amount and largely in the field of agriculture. Requests from farm women are being denied or curtailed and further development of home demonstration work rendered impossible. In Illinois, Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina the State leaders report that nothing was done to promote further establishment of home demonstration work since federal and state funds were exhausted. The general attitude expressed during the hearings held in connection with the proposed Capper-Ketcham Bill indicate that public opinion is ready to support further national and state appropriations for the expansion of home demonstration work.

(2) Insufficient State and federal funds to meet county appropriations.

In Georgia, Kansas, Texas, and North Carolina a total of twenty-nine counties have already appropriated for home demonstration agents and are on the waiting list ready to add home demonstration agents when Federal and state funds are available. The North Carolina State agent says, "For five years the number of counties in home demonstration work has remained practically stationary owing to the static condition of state and federal appropriations. Counties asking for home demonstration work have not been supported on account of lack of funds with which to meet their appropriations. Nine such counties have asked for organization." Kansas reports eight counties on the waiting list. Texas reports 7 counties waiting, 5 of which appropriated \$1500, and two \$1200. Georgia reports, "Five counties are on the waiting list for home demonstration agents as soon as state and federal funds are available. The Minnesota leader says, "Interest in a home demonstration agent is keen and the attitude good in several counties but with the present State and federal appropriations no increase in the budget is possible." Wyoming indicates that counties would probably be available if funds from State and federal sources were obtainable.

(3) County appropriations difficult to obtain.

Due to prevailing economy policies regarding public expenditures, county commissioners have felt it necessary to refuse funds for the employment of county home demonstration agents, even though requested by large numbers of farm women. The Iowa State leader reports, "Lack of funds to support two agents adequately is the problem to be solved in some way."

Lack of knowledge as to effective procedure in presenting requests for funds has also prevented more rapid development of home demonstration work. Only a few farm women are as yet adequately experienced in legislative procedure so as to assure desired action regarding requested appropriation. In ten counties farm women requested county appropriations for conducting home demonstration work, but were refused by the county appropriating body. The report from New York State indicates that in each of two counties during 1926 farm women obtained membership signatures from over 600 farm women and requested appropriations to install home demonstration agents but were refused a nominal county appropriation by the commissioners. Arkansas, Ohio, and Wisconsin mention this same problem. In Arkansas the levying courts in two counties made appropriations for home demonstration work but the county judges refused to allow the funds. The more optimistic economic outlook indicates however that in many counties appropriations may be granted during the coming year.

II Restricting legislation

In many States the legislation under which extension work operates was enacted prior to the war. Changed conditions and large volume of evidence of the value of extension work have made it necessary to revise the law in many states in order that adequate help in agriculture and home economics may be given to farm families. A low maximum of possible county appropriation, is one of the greatest problems met.

The Nebraska State leader reports, "Not nearly so much can be accomplished as if home demonstration agents were in each county, but the limitation of the law prevents this." Indiana and Wisconsin are in a similar

position to Nebraska in this regard. In South Dakota the State Federation of Women's Clubs passed a resolution endorsing home demonstration work and requested the state legislature to consider home demonstration work in preparing its budget for the year. The state agent from Virginia indicates that recently enacted legislation makes the future of home demonstration work appear full of difficulties in obtaining county funds to support home demonstration work. There is marked evidence that basic changes to permit of the growth of home demonstration work will be made in the laws of many States in the near future.

III Limiting Extension Policies

(1) Home demonstration work confined to limited organization.

In many States policies exist which demand that home demonstration work be carried on through a general agricultural organization which is only partially developed within the State. In many cases home demonstration work has been requested by large numbers of women in counties without a local unit of such organization and home demonstration work, supported by taxes from all counties, is denied. The resulting attitude of the women concerned has been hurtful to home demonstration work not only within the counties concerned but the dissatisfaction registered is used as state-wide propaganda by opponents of the use of public funds for extension purposes.

(2) Home demonstration agent not employed until after county agricultural agent.

In a few States extension policies prevent employment of a home demonstration agent until after a county agricultural agent has been employed. Arkansas reports, "One county appropriated enough money for one agent and

asked for a home demonstration agent but the State office decided to discontinue both agents until the county would appropriate for both agents." In some states two county agricultural agents are employed in one county leaving no county funds for a home demonstration agent. Dr. C. B. Smith has indicated his belief that every county should have a man and a woman agent but that the desirable policy is to place first in the county that agent who is recognized by thoughtful rural leaders of the county as being needed by the county.

(3) Home demonstration work supported by private funds instead of public tax.

In a few States the women must raise funds for home demonstration work by membership fee or other personal means. The State leader from Nebraska reports, "Farm women feel they should not have to raise membership money to get home demonstration agent help while agricultural service is available on a taxation basis." In most States, however, home demonstration work is recognized as a basic need and public tax funds are used in its support in increasing amount.

(4) Insufficient cooperating funds to county from State and federal funds for home demonstration work.

In some States less money is allowed from State and federal funds to counties asking for home demonstration agents than for county agricultural agents. This differentiation makes possible the unfortunate interpretation that home demonstration work is of lesser importance than agricultural work. In many States directors of extension recognize that county agricultural work which has been generously supported by State and federal funds is well under way, and that home demonstration work needs further expansion. As a result

they are offering especial financial inducements to counties to develop this phase of the extension program.

(5) Low salaries for home demonstration staff.

Inadequacy of salary for the home demonstration staff is a real problem in many states. In most States women of state and county staffs are required to have comprehensive scholastic training, broad experience, able administrative ability and to carry a heavy program of organization responsibilities. In addition many of them carry heavy personal financial burdens yet in many instances the home demonstration staff receive low salaries compared with persons in coordinate positions within the extension service and in comparable positions in other fields. This makes for constant replacement of staff.

(6) Supervision of home demonstration agents by men agents.

While some State leaders are held responsible for the successful development of home demonstration work, men district agents are given full responsibility in financial matters and in administrative field supervision of home demonstration agents within the district. One state leader reports: "The men district agents do this part of the work and the state leader is given no opportunity for assisting." In twenty-seven States eighty-two assistant home demonstration leaders and district home demonstration agents conduct this phase of supervisory work. They were assisted by six Negro home demonstration supervisors for the Negro home demonstration agents.

(7) Desire for home demonstration agents repressed.

Another difficulty met is that in some instances where home demonstration work in counties without home demonstration agents had developed a

desire on the part of farm women for a home demonstration agent, effort was made to suppress such interest. Indicative of the resulting reaction is the following from the Michigan state leader, "If the suppressed desire of farm women for a home demonstration agent does not receive support or is stifled, the development of the entire extension program is restricted."

IV Insufficient Clerical Assistance

Lack of sufficient clerical assistance was mentioned by many states as a great problem. The system of local leadership which obtains in increasing volume in practically all states requires far greater amounts of printed, mimeographed and illustrated matter, since material must be prepared for the direct teaching done by specialists or home demonstration agents and additional material must be prepared for the local leader to use when instructing the local group. Still further material must be prepared for a comprehensive system of record sheets, reports, and the like.

The local leader system also involves additional office duties. In spite of these facts the home demonstration staff in state and county offices alike are all too frequently faced with inadequate clerical help, insufficient equipment, poorly lighted, heated and furnished offices. The State agent in Virginia reports, "In only one county is there any paid stenographic help available."

V Inadequate Editorial Service

Inadequate editorial service is a very real factor in handicapping home demonstration development. No State has a full time home demonstration news editor, and only seven States report women on the editorial staff. In most states news editors are not assigned for a specific amount of time to

the home demonstration program and all too frequently important home demonstration meetings are not attended by technically trained journalists of the extension editorial staff. The State agent from South Carolina reports, "The weakness of our publicity is recognized and acknowledged and efforts are being made to overcome this fault but without the services of a special publicity agent it is almost impossible for the workers to do justice to this important phase of home demonstration work.

VI Adjustment of subject matter to Extension Needs

Home demonstration work is still a new phase of educational endeavor and the limited specialist staff has a real problem in adjusting known subject matter to the needs of the rural home and to extension teaching with its problems of time limitation, infrequency of contact, widespread demand for immediate and tangible results, and diversified clientele.

In many States home demonstration work was carried on by specialists in counties without home demonstration agents, and since there is but limited opportunity for follow-up work there must be assured clarity and adequacy of original presentation by the specialist. In most states inadequate time was allowed in the office for preparation of material for local leader training and for follow-up work in non-home demonstration agent counties.

VII Lack of Collegiate Rank and of Opportunity for Professional Improvement

In most States members of the State and county extension staff are not accorded college staff rank although in most states they are required to have equivalent scholastic training, and to give longer periods of annual service than members of the resident staff. In only a few States do they have sabbatic leave privileges or other shorter time opportunity for pro-

professional improvement either with or without pay. Since the greatest competing field for home demonstration work is the resident teaching field these conditions must be remedied if we are to attract and hold able women in extension work. A few States have recognized this problem and county and State home demonstration staff members are given rank as members of the college faculty and have sabbatic leave and all other privileges and prestige of the college staff. In an increasing number of States county home demonstration agents have been granted leave with pay for advanced study in this country and in Europe.

VIII Physical Demands and Unsatisfactory Living Conditions

The physical demands of home demonstration work upon State and county workers alike is excessive. They are confronted by problems of irregularity of schedule, uncertainty of meal hours, night meetings, and driving automobiles alone at all hours of day and night over hundreds of miles of road which are often bad and sometimes dangerous.

In addition to these professional difficulties a very basic and human problem is the fact that the eating, sleeping and living facilities available to the women of the home demonstration staff are all too frequently unsatisfactory, sometimes being actually physically uncomfortable. They do not permit of family environment and tend to prevent social satisfaction and personal development. This makes for physical, mental and nervous fatigue. It lowers the morale and makes for heavy turnover in staff. New York, Illinois, and Vermont report that home demonstration work is conducted in the day-time only. Farm women recognize that this educational service is worth while and plan for day time meetings. This makes evening absence from home unnec-

essary. It is also recognized as a means of intelligently conserving the strength of the home demonstration agent. This policy is being considered for adoption by a number of States.

DEVELOPMENTS OF OUTSTANDING IMPORTANCE

Outstanding results of the year's work include growth in numbers of farm women desiring educational service and organized into groups for participation in the extension program, higher percentage in completion of demonstrations and other work undertaken, more improved practices in farm homes and communities, more complete reports of work finished or under way, and more efficient local leadership of organization work and project development. During this period the State and county members of the home demonstration staff gave more efficient and satisfying service in the subject matter and administration. State after State reports hearty cooperation by the press through sending representatives to get data regarding regular project work; to be present at important events in the home demonstration program and to report these extensively, generously and satisfyingly throughout the pages of daily, weekly and periodic publications. Maine reports that the extension editor assists in directing and organizing methods of publicity in the counties. In addition to other press activities the home demonstration agent in Piscataquis County, Maine, prepared 32 articles for the press and reports, "Ninety-five per cent of all copy furnished to the press has appeared in the papers."

Educational, civic and commercial agencies generally gave generously of time, energy, and money to furthering demonstration work and to obtaining its support by public appropriating bodies.

In all States effort was made throughout the year to delimit the scope of program undertaken. This more concentrated effort produced volume of results which was more satisfactory to the women participating in the program, it acted as an incentive to interest others, and also showed more tangible results to those appropriating for this work.

In many States programs were made out for more than one year. Iowa counties have a single project planned for at least three years. Illinois reports that many counties have planned the program for three years though two or more projects may be included in the program. New York State reports that programs are made out on a one to five year basis. Rhode Island reports a five year program of home demonstration projects.

Every State reported more efficiency in administration of community, county and State units. Many States report that farm women are taking over most of the routine duties of county administrative work. New York reports, "There is marked growth in administrative leadership which shows up statewide this year."

In order that project leaders and other officers in counties and communities might function more effectively, considerable time was given to training them in matters of organization efficiency, records and reports and in correct parliamentary procedure. New York, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Kentucky, and Maryland have given much attention to this matter. These states distributed instructional material along these lines including simple rules for parliamentary procedure.

As a result of this training, officers of local organizations have functioned more effectively in carrying out the program undertaken. They made far more satisfactory reports of the results obtained within their units of administration, and evidenced real ability in carrying on the business side of the local organization. In Maryland each local home demonstration club has its own parliamentarian.

Increased completion of work undertaken was recorded in many reports. Montana reports 68 per cent completion of work undertaken in home demonstration agent counties; New York reports 70 per cent of accomplishment of work begun - Kansas reports, "Of the 480 communities undertaking home demonstration work, 95 per cent carried out the complete program." Arkansas reports that 64.7 per cent of the women completed work undertaken. Maryland reports, "A large percentage of the home demonstration clubs have not only reached the goal set but have gone far beyond it." Connecticut reports, "Probably 95 per cent of the programs were carried through with only minor changes."

Effort was made in all States to more clearly define work to be undertaken, responsibility in carrying on the work, in publicity regarding the work, and in obtaining records of results accomplished. In Iowa when projects are written by the local women and a representative of the extension service, one of the items discussed is the purpose of the project. Such analysis helps the women to visualize clearly the benefits to be derived and gives talking points for them in interesting other women to participate in the work. The following items were listed by the women from Muscatine County, Iowa, as the purpose of the county-wide home management project undertaken by

them:

- To learn to be more efficient and plan work better in the home.
- To select better kitchen utensils.
- To aid each other by giving helpful suggestions.
- To increase our efficiency by systematic study.
- To teach the children their responsibility to the home.
- To strengthen our organization and create better community spirit.

LOCAL LEADERSHIP

By far the most outstanding of the year's achievements was the development of leadership among farm women. Each year farm women have clearer vision of the possibilities of this educational service and assume more of the responsibility for organizing themselves into groups to carry on the extension program. They recognize that the matter of obtaining public appropriation for conducting home demonstration work, organization of women into groups, and the successful administering of the business of such groups is their own responsibility. They are learning to look to the extension staff as a source of information and of helpful guidance in aiding them to gradually assume responsibility for such duties, as well as for permanent technical leadership in the field of subject matter instruction.

Each year additional numbers of farm women are recognizing the privileges of local leadership. During the year, 126,709 farm women served as volunteer local leaders. Farm women are recognizing local leadership as an opportunity for receiving expert technical training, for serving the community, and for expanding their viewpoint, as well as appreciating the personal satisfaction resulting from altruistic services, extended acquaintance, deepening friendships and opportunity to meet with leaders in the field of rural progress. They are recognizing the value of and a sense of responsibility for

developing club work for boys and girls which will make future rural life leadership assured in volume, in quality and scope of interest, and in soundly conservative judgment.

The home demonstration staff is learning to properly evaluate the real ability of these farm women whose sound philosophy, clear judgment, boundless energy, unswerving purpose and never lagging zeal, have been given a constructive channel of expression through the local leadership responsibilities. Additional numbers of counties conducted training meetings for local leaders, and more care in planning the training given to these leaders as to subject matter and teaching procedure was reported by all States. Mississippi reports, "Local leader conferences were held in 31 counties. We are stressing the importance of giving to these cooperators definite plans of work in order that we may reach more people back in the communities." Nevada reports, "There is growing realization by both the leaders and the communities of the value of local leaders. Throughout the State no project work is started unless the community has secured a local leader. Fully one-half of the project instruction was given by local leaders..... These leaders take charge of enrollment; send out notices of time and place of meetings; secure and distribute supplies; assist the agents at method demonstrations; take the major responsibility for securing records of results from both demonstrators and cooperators; carry on publicity and arrange for tours and achievement days."

The undaunted courage and reliability of local leaders in carrying on their responsibilities is indicated by the following quotation from the Indiana state leader, "Wind and weather have failed to curb the interest of

these women. One woman who lived on a side road and could not drive her machine, drove a mule team nine miles, watched three other teams ford a stream which floated the buggy bed, drove her team in, crossed safely, left her team there, boarded a train, rode twelve miles, took an electric car and came "Smilin' Thru."

Special effort was made during 1926 to interest larger numbers of women in the home demonstration program of work.

While increasingly satisfactory results have been obtained in selecting subject matter to meet practical needs and in developing methods in teaching which would interest those attending the meetings, it was realized that effort must be made to interest far larger numbers of women within the county in adopting improved practices. The Iowa State leader reports, "During this year, 8400 communities have actually taken part in a county wide project. Our goal for 1927 is to reach the remaining 5200 communities, and to have every school district actively interested and with at least five co-operators." Maine reports, "Two hundred eighty-seven out of a possible 387 communities have been organized in this state. South Dakota reports a goal of "An average of 150 members per county, and 50 per cent of the membership making use of each of the lessons taught." Kentucky reports, "The work in organized counties has in every case reached more communities and more women - our agents have not yet made the work accessible to every woman within the county but they are working hard to reach that goal." Vermont reports, "We realize that we should reach a great many more women each year. We are considering the problem of women who are tied at home." The Massachusetts leader mentioned especial endeavor to find means to bring young

mothers into helpful contact with home demonstration work. In many counties surveys were made of the possible maximum number of women who logically might be interested in the program of work, and a check was made of the number reached at the end of the year. Utah, California, and Maine especially stress this fact and that such analysis was a definite part of each community's program planning. The California leader reports that goals of membership were set for each community and that for the first time the spread of influence was reported for all project work undertaken. The Maine leader reports, "As extension funds come from public taxation we should be reaching more than the definitely enrolled membership. For that reason the homemaker's list was started. These lists include all homemakers within the county."

Short courses, one to three day rallies at the Agricultural College and county-wide achievement days were reported by twenty-nine States. Larger attendance and greater participating interest by farm women were reported by all states.

Thirty-one States report 141 camps especially planned for farm women. A number of these camps were for women from two to four counties so that farm women from more than 150 counties enjoyed the brief respite from daily household activities to gain educational service, and inspirational challenge, and at the same time they enjoyed rest and recreation and renewed the zest of youth.

The rapidly expanding interest of farm women in these camps has caused the home demonstration staff to give more thought and attention to the informational and inspirational programs and also to the recreational activities

presented. Able speakers and instructors, and farm women who had shown outstanding ability, participated in the program.

That these camps are serving a real need in the lives of farm women is evidenced by the following evaluation of them as expressed by a farm woman.

"The camp meant rest and diversion, recreation and learning, new friends and acquaintances. It meant a time when I could be a girl again, laughing, talking, singing, and playing with the other 'girls'. It was a source of inspiration which we carried back into our homes. It was a time of year which was mine which the rest of the family had planned for me. It was a time looked forward to and when past, dreamed of and talked about at all times."

GIRLS' 4-H CLUB WORK

Records of 1926 indicate that more time and attention was given to the development of club work. Home demonstration agents reported 188,595 girls and 12,465 boys as members of 4-H clubs which were under home demonstration agents' supervision. There was but little change in the scope of project activities but the subject of health was stressed in all states. "Be your own best exhibit," was the slogan adopted for the girls' food clubs in South Carolina. During the year home demonstration agents aroused interest among farm girls in the formation of project clubs. In many States each group of adult women was urged to sponsor the development of such a club and to furnish a local leader for it. Home demonstration agents trained and supervised 14,253 volunteer leaders for 4-H club work in matters of organization and subject matter. Home demonstration agents also aided in improving standards of achievement, in raising the percentage of completed demonstrations,

records and the like, and in bettering the quality of exhibits and of prizes offered. They urged that club members be their own best exhibit and were frequently the motive power which induced club girls to continue their education beyond the limit set by law.

ORGANIZATION STATUS

It is evident that home demonstration work is entering upon a new phase of its existence since all States report that only minor changes were made in the basic plan of organization through which home demonstration work was conducted. This fact indicates that from now on major attention of the home demonstration staff can be given to increased efficiency in program and results.

There is still variety in name and form of organization for carrying on home demonstration work but the common objective of all States is a program which farm women have helped to select to meet their needs and responsibility by local women to demonstrate in their own homes the value of the recommended practices.

During the year the extension staff recognized more fully the need of farm women being organized into well defined groups in which they have definite responsibilities. In this regard Missouri reports, "If we are to do more effective home-economics extension work there is great need for the more complete organization of women into clubs." Vermont reports, "The county organization of women is stronger. The women took more responsibility for planning programs and for financing the county work. Local groups of women have elected their own officers this year and have become real factors

in community life."

The State agent from Maryland enumerates the value of these organized groups of farm women as follows:-

1. Women and girls like the social contact.
2. Women like to know the results of the home demonstrations undertaken.
3. Women like to exchange ideas.
4. Group organization trains for leadership.
5. Group organization breaks down the inferiority and self-conscious complex which many farm women and girls possess.

A number of States are adopting a well-organized, continuous growth plan in place of concentrated campaigns as a means to increase the membership. The Illinois state leader reports, "Under our continuous growth plan each county has a year-round membership committee. Women are invited as guests to attend different types of meetings. They are thus much more likely to become members because of the merits of the organization." The State leader from Kentucky says, "The women have realized the value of active membership. The membership now includes only those who actually come and take part in the work. The constitution provides that any member not attending for three successive meetings without excuse will be dropped from membership." New York is reducing its membership to those actually participating. Virginia, Texas, Mississippi, and Maryland report having set up qualifications for a standard home demonstration club, and Missouri has set standards for standard communities.

Ten States report state-wide federations of home demonstration units. State-wide federations of home demonstration clubs were formed in West Virginia, Alabama, and Texas during the year. These state-wide federations, and the state-wide committees of farm bureau women which obtain in Iowa and California have served to broaden, clarify, and unify the common objectives of desirable

home and community life. They have also called to the attention of all counties a few state-wide needs, and have done much to promote constructive legislation, to develop interest in matters of civic, social and recreational well-being and to promote interest in boys' and girls' club development. In addition they have brought the achievements and abilities of rural women to the attention of all agencies and organizations interested in the rural field.

State-wide project committees were reported by the Massachusetts leader who comments that the work done by the committees was so encouraging and was so much valued that next year there will be State committees for all lines of project work undertaken. Thirty-three States report county-wide administrative committees whose function is promoting and efficiently developing home demonstration work within the counties. Texas reports county-wide committees in 63 counties, North Carolina in 45 counties, Alabama in 35 counties. Mississippi reports such committees in every county having a home demonstration agent and Iowa reports such a committee in each of the 99 counties carrying project work. Florida reports that 58 per cent of the counties have such committees. Kansas has such committees in 80 per cent of the 45 counties carrying home project work.

In Iowa committees of women effectively functioned administratively within the farm bureau organization on an area basis. These committees of women included school district, township, county, congressional district, and state-wide committees, the chairmen of each smaller unit automatically forming the committee of the next larger unit of organization. In California the farm home departments of the county farm bureaus have county farm home

chairmen. These women automatically become official representatives at the regular regional farm bureau meetings. At the 1926 State farm bureau meeting the twenty-two women present were asked to serve as a state-wide committee and to make recommendations for home and community work to the State farm bureau executive committee.

Special committees for particular short time purposes within the community and on a county-wide basis, has been another development which was repeatedly mentioned in State reports.

METHODS

State and county staffs are recognizing that in addition to the preparation of well-selected subject matter, there must be a well-defined plan of teaching which will serve to interest large numbers of busy farm women in project work and to desire to demonstrate for their own satisfaction that practices recommended by the extension staff are worthy of permanent adoption.

The demonstration continued to be used as the basic method in teaching. Home demonstration agents report that 469,465 farm women, 371,430 farm girls, and 15,706 farm boys served as demonstrators of desirable home practices. Five hundred ninety-nine thousand and thirty-five result demonstrations were carried through to completion. Discussion was also used in all States as a method in teaching. These fundamental methods were supplemented by other methods, particularly those of visual nature. Photographs, lantern slides, exhibits, models, actual equipment, motion pictures, window exhibits, posters, pamphlets, bulletins, exhibits and the like, were carefully chosen because of their value in meeting a particular need in inducing farm women to improve

practices. Score cards, contests, plays, pageants, and exhibits were also used as teaching devices. Loan envelopes for study clubs were reported by Colorado, Missouri, and Nebraska. Study clubs were reported by New York, Nebraska and Missouri. In obtaining illustrative materials for home demonstration work commercial concerns and educational agencies have rendered great assistance to the extension staff whose limited funds would not permit of extensive possession of such material. These agencies have furnished illustrative material and have also sent technically trained experts to demonstrate to groups of farm women, basic principles of better home-making.

Twenty-one States used the radio for a series of talks as a means of teaching improved rural home practices.

During the year many States made use of surveys as a means of strengthening home demonstration service to farm women. The surveys helped to obtain concrete information regarding conditions of a general or specific nature. The information obtained was used to help define specific problems and as a basis for determining specific remedies for solving recognized problems. It also served to visualize the differing types of population in its actual location thus making possible more effective efforts at reaching larger numbers of women within the county.

In Kansas a detailed survey of the county as to conditions and personnel is made before any organization or project work is undertaken. The State leader comments, "This survey gives a comprehensive working knowledge of the conditions in each community and locates for us the leading men and women in each locality." Tennessee reports, "A simple survey of the homes of the community is part of every club program." Maine reported, "In three

counties a survey was conducted for the purpose of better understanding of conditions and the farm home and therefore being able to plan projects to meet these needs." Colorado reports, "We are planning surveys of home conditions as a basis for home demonstration work." Ohio reported, "Fifty per cent of the home demonstration agents have undertaken a well-organized study of the social and economic conditions in their respective counties as a desirable basis for planning home demonstration work."

Score cards have been used to measure efficiency in 53 counties carrying home demonstration work in Ohio. Maine conducted survey studies of local leadership efficiency. West Virginia, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, and Maryland used community score cards to test efficiency of local units. Iowa and Kansas used score cards at the state fair by means of which counties compete for honors on the basis of the effectiveness of the work on a year-round basis including factors of growth in membership in the organization, persons improving home practices, leaders functioning, efficiency as to records, publicity, and the like. Iowa has conducted this state-wide competition for five years.

Surveys directed toward analyzing the effectiveness of project work in home economics and in agriculture were made cooperatively by the United States Department of Agriculture and the State Extension Service in 12 States. These surveys have served to arouse thoughtful consideration of our extension activities and their effectiveness. Many states cooperated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs in taking a survey of rural home equipment. Typical results obtained were the following:- In California 4360 surveys and in Nebraska 4187 surveys were taken through home demonstration agents for this

purpose. Home demonstration agents in all counties in Connecticut also gathered surveys for this study.

Limited surveys of food produced from the farm, check up of the fresh fruit and vegetable supply and studies of the amount of butter and margarine used in a given county were reported. A county-wide survey of kitchen equipment was made in New Hampshire. County-wide surveys of health conditions were made in Ohio, and water system surveys were taken in Connecticut.

Score cards were used in inventorying food habits, clothes supply, kitchen equipment, living room conditions, and other phases of home activities.

In addition to instruction to project groups, instruction in home-making activities was presented before large groups of persons. Short courses, camps, rally days, achievement days, county-wide meetings, community picnics, meetings of community clubs, and the like were occasions for attractived and popular presentation of project results. Farm women themselves took a large part in planning and presentation of programs on such occasions.

Each year the home demonstration staff gives additional testimony of the value of the press as an educational medium through which improved home making practices may be taught, and as a means of correctly informing the public regarding the aims and objectives of home demonstration work.

More effort to prepare the county for project work and to effectively follow-up the work given to organized groups is reported by several states. The Ohio State leader reports that in all project work approximately two-fifths of the time of the extension staff is used in preparation of the field for project work; one-fifth of the time in project instruction, and two-fifths

of the time in follow-up work directed toward widespread adoption of the demonstrated practices. New Jersey reports, "No doubt a finer understanding would exist concerning the objectives of the service and the attitude toward the work would be one of more intelligent cooperation, also the worker would be more likely to reach the group needing the information if more time were given to preparing the county for a piece of work."

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Much effective presentation of project work was made possible through the mutually beneficial cooperation of the home demonstration staff with other agencies which was reported by eighteen states.

In eleven States activities were carried on jointly with various educational agencies. Typical of the rapidly developing wholesome cooperation between commercial concerns and the home demonstration staff is the fact that in eleven states leaders mention the effectiveness of cooperation with commercial concerns. Commercial agencies representing products of widely varying types were reported as having given helpful and highly ethical assistance in promoting the educational program. The range of assistance included illustrated material, illustrated lectures, practical demonstrations, loans of equipment, adding new equipment to stock, and in setting up joint exhibits.

The Louisiana report says, "In every parish where there is a home demonstration agent cordial relationships and mutual exchange of efforts is established between the home demonstration agent and such organizations as the school board, police jury, chamber of commerce, women's clubs, business men's clubs, banks, parent-teacher association. Every organization of im-

portance in the different parishes cooperate with the home demonstration agents both financially and by boosting the work."

The State leader from Michigan says: "Almost without exception merchants have given excellent cooperation by putting in stocks of equipment and materials suggested by clothing specialists. In the home management project local hardware stores always cooperate by loaning equipment and many times by stocking with certain types of small equipment."

The New York report reads: "Cooperation with State, county and local educational institutions has been excellent. Cooperation with the educational departments of commercial firms has been made use of by the counties to help meet the requests of the homemakers when specialists can not take care of them. Some of the subjects covered are care of the hair, skin and teeth, care of the feet, proper corseting, laundering, dyeing, food preparation and preservation, home equipment and music for the home."

In Arkansas the extension food preservation specialist gave help to newly developing cannery industries. In Illinois a local grocer asked to become a member of the home bureau in order that he might have a representative at all the foods and nutrition instruction meetings.

The fine precedent already established in the cooperation of commercial companies with the home demonstration staff presages still further relationships which will benefit the farm woman and the manufacturer alike.

EXHIBITS

Increased funds from state and county fair boards for womens's exhibits, more county fairs, better quality of products exhibited, and endeavor to make the exhibit teach one idea, additional participation by farm

women in planning exhibits, in judging results, in demonstrating at fairs and in improving premium lists are outstanding items recorded in state leaders' reports of 1926.

In many counties in Iowa and Kansas, the state fair was the climax period of the home demonstration instruction of the year, since at that time counties were allowed to compete on a state-wide basis for effectiveness of work done throughout the year. The score card by which the counties were to be judged was given out in advance and thus throughout the year stimulus was given to quality and quantity of results, effective leadership, membership, reports and publicity as well as to the improved practices resulting. Iowa has carried on this plan for four years while 1926 was the first year for Kansas to do so. In New York State ten home demonstration agent counties cooperated at the state fair, each county exhibit representing a different phase of home making.

PROJECT RESULTS

During 1926 projects contributing to economic and physical well being were outstanding in volume but there was increased interest in projects of broader scope such as training for parenthood, music appreciation, recreation, training in parliamentary procedure and in the responsibilities of citizenship.

During the year the extension staff gave additional recognition to the fact that technical instruction must be supplemented by interest and joyous satisfaction if recommended practices are to be generally adopted. As a result group meetings and training meetings for local leaders have been modified sufficiently so that the technical instruction period is supplemented

by recreational activities, physical exercise for relaxation, group singing, and the like.

Certain phases of home demonstration work more recently undertaken which received special attention during 1926 are the following:-

(1) Child Care and Training.

The child care and training project rendered real service to fathers and mothers alike wherever it was included in the program of work. Illinois, Iowa and New York maintain full time extension child care and training specialists. Ohio and Minnesota have part time specialists in this subject matter field. The Georgia state agent reports, "Considerable time has been devoted to the direction of work in child care and training with an experimental program in a few counties to find the best means of conducting this work for groups of rural women." In Arizona mother study groups for pre-school and school children were carried on in five counties. In many states principles of correct habit formation were taught in connection with the child feeding project.

The child care and training project was taught by means of community meetings, by county-wide three-day institutes, by study groups, by individual conferences, and by training of local leaders. Exhibits, demonstrations, reference reading and traveling libraries were used as aids in the instruction given.

This project has helped parents to know how to form constructive physical and mental habits in normal children. In addition it has helped them to intelligently distinguish between physical and nervous symptoms and conditions and has helped them to correct undesirable habits such as enuresis,

tantrums, and other such habits. It has helped parents to recognize their own shortcomings in training of children. Some of the comments made by those participating in this project work follow.

"In all, I think instead of changing my children's habits I am learning to change my own and I have reached a better understanding as to the why and wherefore of child training than I ever could have attained otherwise."

"The courses of reading we carried out have been an opening of a broader view of life to me as well as my husband who found much pleasure in reading some of these books. I feel sure we will have nearer the 'same view' on many problems. How I wish every mother in our county could have the advantage and privilege of this child's training school."

(2) Music Appreciation.

Music is becoming a recognized aid in extension teaching and in the development of satisfying community life. In all states music is being introduced into group meetings through informal means. In Michigan and Nebraska formal project work in music appreciation was organized. Iowa conducted music memory contests. Ohio home demonstration agents stressed good music at community and county meetings. Nebraska had two units of music appreciation, "Music for the Family," and "Music for Everyday." Michigan carried the work as a minor project while in Nebraska a part of every meeting in all subject matter lines was devoted to the study of music. In Michigan a goal was set for every woman to be able to sing from memory "America the Beautiful" and "Michigan, my Michigan," before the end of the training period. Nebraska offered music suggestions for the baby, the young girl, the young

boy, for the age of romance, music for parents and for grandparents. Special stress was given to six songs and women were urged to learn the words and tune so as to be able to sing them well on any occasion.

In many States home demonstration work was made more interesting through the writing of songs by farm women indicating the value of the instruction given. Songs concerned with every phase of subject matter were written, some in humorous vein and were sung on many occasions, particularly on achievement days, and at community-wide meetings.

(3) Recreation.

Increasing recognition was given by the home demonstration staff to the need of recreational and social satisfaction in rural districts. During the year additional states developed well-organized plans for introducing recreation into the lives of farm people and more varied means were used.

The State federation of Home Bureaus in Illinois sponsored a county-wide play day movement, and compiled play suggestions for all age groups for such occasions. St..Louis County, Minnesota, held its third annual two-day recreational institute and trained 150 local leaders from many communities in recreational activities.

Summer camps for farm women were reported by 141 counties in 31 States. In many States where all day training meetings of local leaders were held, short time periods were taken at mid-morning and mid-afternoon for recreation. Not only did the leaders become relaxed but they later served as recreation leaders at meetings in their respective communities.

Short courses for farm women, achievement days, rally days, county-wide and community picnics, contests of a recreational nature such as the rural orchestra contest and the music and picture appreciation contests held in Iowa were furthered by home demonstration agents. In West Virginia a recreation score card was used to indicate available and needed recreational resources. The State agent reports, "Through the use of the recreation score card many communities in the state have studied their problems along this line and are working out solutions. Records show that community spirit increases in direct proportion to the increase in the recreation score. People who play together are more willing to cooperate in other activities." Connecticut reports that each county held a county-wide field day and a county picnic.

North Carolina and Nebraska report that some recreation is to be definitely planned as a part of each community meeting. South Carolina sent out recreation suggestions quarterly throughout the year. Instruction in recreation was included in the farm and home week program in several States. Recreation was mentioned by many States including West Virginia, New York, Alabama, Arkansas, California, Illinois, Michigan, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Ohio and printed or mimeographed material on the subject was prepared and distributed by these States.

The recreational activities mentioned in annual reports include games, playlets, pageants, parody songs and poems, picnics, basket ball leagues, chorus and community singing, little theatre, home talent at county fairs. Ohio reports, "We have come to a realization of the rural recreational poverty as a result of our recreational survey." That train-

ing of rural women in recreation has served a purpose larger than that of joyous activity alone is evidenced by the following quotation from the New York report, "Recreation has served to teach cooperation or team play - it develops qualities of leadership and gives discouraged rural people a 'mental vacation'."

Achievement days, which have much of recreational value are rapidly becoming an integral part of home demonstration work. After groups of farm women have carried out a year's demonstration of desirable hom practices it is gratifying to visualize results obtained on a community-wide or county-wide basis. In addition, achievement days serve as a means of showing concrete evidence of values received to all interested persons, and the social and entertainment values lure many who come to be entertained into participation in the organized group work. Iowa prepared an achievement day score card.

As a result of achievement days for which farm women assume much responsibility as to planning and execution, farm women are developing executive ability. They are able to speak before public audiences without fear, they are finding expression for artistic and histrionic talents and they are finding unrealized abilities as authors, composers, playwrights, and managers of complex activities concerning participation by many people.

Achievement days have been so attractively presented that they have served to attract the attendance not only of members of the families of women participating in the program but of bankers, editors, educators, members of civic, educational, commercial, and religious organizations.

This has served to disseminate accurate and concrete evidence of the objective and results of home demonstration work and has done much to win public approval for its support.

(4) Community Activities.

Fifteen states stressed the fact that undertakings of community-wide value were undertaken with added zeal by home demonstration groups. New York state has always been outstanding in its broad gauge community activities. Community activities undertaken in New York during 1926 include dramatics, village improvement, helping the unfortunate, community work in schools, libraries, hospitals, churches, cemetery improvement, civics, including cooperation with league of women voters, cooperation in citizenship school, studying county history, training of local leaders in citizenship, community buildings, state fairs, county fair exhibits, county picnics, camp for home bureau members.

Kentucky reports that some community activity is included as a part of the program of every club. The Illinois State leader reports, "There is a greater tendency on the part of the women to sponsor some activity for the good of the community and the women are justly proud of the hot school lunches which they have started in rural schools, the physical and dental examinations, nutrition-health classes, and mothers' classes which have been conducted."

Virginia reports, "Community activities are fostered by home demonstration clubs." Louisiana reports, Community nights with the local people assuming entire responsibility. Vermont indicates, "It is a gen-

eral practice to adopt some community program of work." Oklahoma says, "Many farm women's clubs are carrying fine community projects." Wyoming leader reports that home demonstration agents are promoting community picnics. Navajo County, Arizona, reports a "civic pride" campaign. Possible improvements were listed and a place was indicated for the citizen to sign to indicate what he or she volunteered to do in that respect. Iowa and Ohio report county-wide "tea parties" as a means of extending welcome to new home demonstration agents and of saying a word of appreciation to departing ones.

In Lee county, Florida, a parsonage was refurnished and redecorated by home demonstration women. Home demonstration clubs in Volusea County, Florida, sent relief to the hurricane district. Home demonstration clubs in four counties in Florida gave funds for six scholarships for study in home economics. Tennessee reports that the business men stressed the improvement in community meals due to home demonstration work. Idaho reports that members of home demonstration groups are considering community meals as conscientiously as those served at home. Oregon reports improved sanitation in Benton County Schools as a result of home demonstration work. West Virginia reports many phases of community activity including community scoring, and community recreation.

The following tables indicate the results achieved in projects which have been under way in all States for a number of years and which will be discussed at further length in a separate report on "subject matter results of home demonstration work."

Food Preparation												
Improved Practices	Bread Making	Meat	Vegetable	Dairy	Meal							
Adopted	Women	Girls	Women	Girls	Women	Girls	Women	Girls				
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:			
	55038	51116	54052	29026	93464	67287	62861	42008	91711: 70889			
Food Preservation												
Improved Practices												
Adopted	Fruits and Vegetables	Meats and Fish	Food Storage									
	Women	Girls	Women	Girls	Women	Girls						
	:	:	:	:	:	:						
	83866	64601	27803	10897	21305							
Number of result demonstrations completed or carried through year.....												
					Women	90827						
					Girls	89197						
Total number of different homes adopting improved practices relative to food preparation and preservation.....												

Improved : Dwellings :	Dwellings :	Sewage - :	Water :	Heating:Lighting :	Poultry
Practices: Constructed: Remodeled :	Disposal: Systems :	Systems: Systems :	Systems: Systems :	Houses	
Adopted :	Systems : Installed:Installed:Constructed				
:	:	:	:	:	:
:	756 :	636 :	1233 :	227 :	1017 :
:	1345 :				3188 :
Number of result demonstrations completed or carried through the year.....2657					
Total number of different homes adopting improved practices relative to the rural engineering work.....8834					

BEAUTIFICATION OF HOME GROUNDS

Improved Practices:	Home Grounds Planted	School & Community Grounds Planted	Homes Painted or White washed
Adopted :	:	:	:
:	8367	1328	3823
Number of result demonstrations completed or carried through the year....			Women 13614
Total number of different homes beautifying home grounds this year.....			Girls 13350
			49524

HOME GARDENS

Improved	Growing	Growing	Growing	Saving	Homes	Growing
Prac- tices	Fruit	Bush and	Grapes	Vegetables	Improved or	Spraying
	Trees	Small Fruit		Stock seed		Winter
Adopted	Women: Girls	Women: Girls	Women: Girls	Women: Girls	Women: Girls	Women: Girls
	:	:	:	:	:	:
	12640	5296	10080	3490	5991	2225
	50926	33285	10481	6453	18507	17398
Number of result demonstrations completed or carried through the year....	Women	Girls	23591			
Total number of different homes adopting improved practices relative to the home garden work.....			23580			
			83862			

HOME POULTRY

Improved :	Culling :	Better :	Standard :	Standard :	Early Hatch- :	Increased:	Control of
Practices:	Flocks :	Balanced:	bred eggs :	Bred :	ing and chick:	Income :	Poultry
Adopted :	Rations :	for hatching:	Cockerel :	raising :		Insects :	
Women:Girls:	Homes :	Women:Girls:	Homes :	Women: Girls :	Homes :	Homes :	
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
:16679:	7014:	21367 :	14274:11767 :	8704 :	26455: 14215 :	46989 :	15258
Number of result demonstrations completed or carried through the year.....							
						Women	20818
						Girls	11937
Total number of different homes adopting improved practices relative to							
the Home poultry work.....							
							63063

HOME DAIRY

Improved :	Homes Feeding Better :	Sanitary Production and :	Butter and Cheese
Practices:	Dairy Rations :	care of milk :	Making
:	:	:	
:	6663 :	15790 :	22148
Number of result demonstrations completed or carried through the year.....			
			Women 6979
			Girls 1899
Total number different homes adopting improved practices relative to			
the home dairy work.....			
			23931

HOME MARKETING

Number of homes standardizing and grading following products for market.				
Poultry and Poultry Products	Canned Goods	Dairy Products	Fruits and Vegetables	Other
12145	7203	7018	11596	2646
Total number of different homes adopting improved marketing practices,.....				27445

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & MISCELLANEOUS -- HOME

Number of result demonstrations completed or carried through the year.....		Women 13187
		Girls 11379
Total number of different homes adopting improved practices relative to community and miscellaneous work.....		62551

TREND OF INFLUENCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOME DEMONSTRATION
WORK

The home demonstration staff is increasingly recognizing the importance of developing responsible leadership among rural women. They are making painstaking effort in this direction recognizing that although this use of their time is more difficult than is direct teaching of women in community groups, it is productive of a permanent and sure foundation which will guarantee continuous rural progress and efficiency.

The home demonstration staff is realizing that there must be sound methods in project teaching and they are making progress in developing basic principles in extension teaching. They are also recognizing that only as our teaching of improved practices results in improved attitudes can we expect that improvements made will be permanent, and that there will be spontaneous interest in making additional improvements. In many states specific effort is being directed toward developing a constructive philosophy of rural home and community life.

The home demonstration staff is helping farm women to esteem more highly the vocation of homemaking and to appreciate the values and possibilities of rural life. It is helping them to increasingly assume responsibilities to organize rural women into groups and to work with the extension service in planning programs which will improve rural home and community life. It is also aiding them to assume active leadership in successfully carrying out the proposed improvement in a large percentage of rural homes.

Farm women are assuming more and more leadership and initiative in the development of a rural organization which will endeavor to satis-

factorily meet the home and community physical and social needs as well as the economic needs of rural people.

Only as farm women have opportunity for expressing their abilities in the field of developing home and community programs and in helping to guide the rural organization to which they belong are they satisfied. In States where farm women have an organization of their own able leadership has developed, home and community life is increasingly satisfying and farm women are developing broadened mental horizon and viewpoint.

In the States where extension work is carried on through a joint organization of men and women, the satisfaction and efficiency of results obtained appears to be in direct proportion to the extent to which equality of membership status and privilege, and opportunity as to initiative, responsibility, appointive and elective position, and all other matters pertaining to the organization and its activities, is allowed to women on the same basis as to men.

Farm women are realizing that farming is more than a business. They are learning that they have a partnership responsibility with their husbands in developing a better type of rural life and they are assuming increasing leadership in all matters directed toward achieving this objective.

They are also tending to sponsor and accept active leadership in the development of girls' club work.

There is definite trend toward a program which will aid not only in efficiently carrying on essential household duties, but which will include activities looking toward the creation of a constructive philosophy of home-

making and rural life among farm women. Such a program will develop their social and citizenship abilities which will gradually promote more satisfying social and civic conditions for family and community life.

Home demonstration publications are improving. Selection of simple units of subject matter, use of terminology readily understood by farm women, well selected and frequent illustrations, and simple directions for procedure are becoming characteristic of the printed and mimeographed material used in home demonstration work. There is great need for equal improvement in the less formal material given to newspapers used in circular letters and the like.

In planning subject matter and methods in teaching, the home demonstration staff is recognizing the careful consideration which must be given to such factors as available leadership, local vision, seasoned experience, as well as limiting factors such as traditions, habits and antipathies. They are endeavoring to build slowly but firmly upon the existing basis with a long time goal in view, and to reach this goal step by step as rapidly as local conditions permit. Difficulties are being overcome and mutual confidence is being built up as farm women understand the possibilities and limitations of the extension service and as the extension staff recognizes the possibilities and limitations of local conditions and leadership.

Extension administrators are beginning to recognize that home demonstration work is so essential to rural well-being that ways and means are being earnestly sought to expand this phase of extension work. In a few States college rank and sabbatic leave privilege has been given to those in the service, and leave granted for advanced professional study. Equal

remuneration for men and women having coordinate responsibility has also obtained more generally. Ways and means are being sought to eliminate legislative barriers and financial limitations and to develop extension policies which will make possible the maximum development of this service to the farm woman and girl.

In his annual report the Minnesota Director of Extension indicates that he is endeavoring to secure funds so that 25 additional home demonstration agents may be installed within the next two years. Many other directors indicate endeavor along similar lines.

Indicative of the constructive attitude of county agricultural agents toward home demonstration work carried on by home economics specialists and local leaders during 1926 is the following quotation from John J. McCann, County Agricultural agent in Pennington County, Minnesota. "I can truthfully say that the clothing project has been the most successful form of extension work that has been conducted during the eight years I have been in the county. The interest and enthusiasm displayed in this work was 100 per cent at all times. Other forms of extension activities take up quite a little of the agent's time, but in this I could sit back and watch the leaders work, each trying to outdo the others."

SUMMARY

Home demonstration work is still in its infancy as a national educational movement. Difficulties of finance, of program planning, of organizing rural women and girls for this educational service, and of developing widespread public opinion to support this work are being systematically overcome and there is improvement in the quality and quantity of the service

rendered.

Farm women are assuming independent responsibility for organization of community groups, for analyzing local needs, and for assisting the extension service in planning a program based upon local vision, abilities and recognized desires. There is a feeling of good will and faith among all. Farm women are recognizing the place of the extension service in technical leadership to help them to analyze home and community needs; to train them and their daughters in subject matter having to do with better physical, social, and educational conditions for the rural home and community; and to train them to organize and efficiently administer the business affairs of their organization. The extension staff is seeing more clearly what problems need solution, and how to solve them. They are recognizing that farm women and girls have a latent strength of ability in leadership which needs but to be slightly directed to give forth a vital service which will assume the initiative in improving rural life.

Dr. C. B. Smith, Chief of the Office of Cooperative Extension Work, United States Department of Agriculture has said, "It is false doctrine to put off improvement of the home and enjoyment of one's life until a large income is assured. A satisfying home is oft-times more a matter of wise planning and right use of time than of increased income. The rose growing over the door, shrubs screening foundations, the smooth lawn, fruits and fresh vegetables, milk and honey are matters of planning and work rather than of increased income.

"Neighborliness is not a matter of adequate money, nor is pleasing personal appearance, an attractive and orderly home, wholesome thinking and constructive use of leisure moments; yet these are the things that are worth

while and give greatest satisfaction in life. They are matters of the will and the spirit and are necessary to make the right kind of a home."

There is such evidence of need to be met by the service of home demonstration agents, farm women are so earnestly requesting this help, there is such volume of definitely sustained public opinion supporting home demonstration work, and directors of extension and county agricultural agents are so increasingly endeavoring to help promote this newer phase of extension work as to give a sense of courage and enthusiasm to the home demonstration staff and farm women. They believe that there will be ever increasing effort by directors of extension and other federal and state administrators to develop this phase of extension work and to make immediately available increased funds for its expansion to meet the ever increasing demands of farm women for help in solving their home problems, in building up a richer type of family life, and in making farm communities desirable places in which to live and bring up their children.

